connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Assam is going as per the schedule; and

(c) if so, by when these highways are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Two loans from World Bank of US $ 516 million and US $ 589 million have been signed so far. Asian Development Bank has already provided a loan of US $ 180 million and US $ 240 million has been negotiated. Thus total financing of US $ 1525 million, roughly equivalent to Rs. 7200 crore has been firmed up so far.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Golden Quadrilateral component is targeted for completion by December 2003 and North-South and East-West corridors by December 2007.

Patna-Darbhanga Highway

†2716. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Patna-Darbhanga *via* Muzaffarpur Highway has been declared as National Highway; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the work and by when the National Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir. The Highway from Patna to Darbhanga *via* Muzaffarpur is already part of National Highway network. The portion Patna-Hajipur is part of NH-19, Hazipur Muzaffarpur is part of NH-77 and Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga is part of NH-57.

(b) Development of National Highways is continuous process. Of 11 works costing Rs. 25.78 crores sanctioned for development of this highway, 6 works costing Rs. 10.16 crores have since been completed and remaining 5 works are in progress on various stretches.

National Highway Development Project

2717. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether consturction work of National Highways Development Projects consisting of two main components Golden Quadrilateral and North-South-East-West is going on as per the schedule;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.